

STATE OF TEXAS	\$
COUNTIES OF POTTER	\$
AND RANDALL	\$
CITY OF AMARILLO	\$

On the 1st day of December, 2011, the Downtown Urban Design Review Board met in a scheduled session at 5:30 P.M. in Room 306 on the third floor of City Hall, 509 East 7th Avenue, Amarillo, Texas, with the following members present:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
Chan Davidson	No	8	6
Melissa Henderson	Yes	8	7
David Horsley	Yes	8	8
Charles Lynch, alternate	Yes	8	6
Kevin Nelson	Yes	8	8
Bob Rathbun	Yes	8	6
Wes Reeves	Yes	8	5
Mason Rogers	No	8	2
Howard Smith	Yes	7	8
Dana Williams-Walton	Yes	8	8

CITY STAFF:

Kelley Shaw, Planning Director
Cris Valverde, Senior Planner

Chairman Smith opened the meeting, established a quorum, and conducted the consideration of the following items beginning with ITEM 1.

ITEM 1: Approval of Minutes from the August 11, 2011 meeting

Chairman Smith asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the minutes? Mr. Reeves motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 2: Consider an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Level 3 Communications satellite installation project located at 512 SE 8th Avenue

Chairman Smith asked Mr. Shaw to proceed with Staff's presentation of the item. Mr. Shaw began by stating that the project before the Board was different than anything the Board had previously considered. Mr. Shaw described the property at 8th and Buchanan as being an telecommunications use with four satellite dishes and a standalone building that were in existence before the DAUDS were approved. Mr. Shaw then described the proposed location of two new, large satellite dishes with a security/screening fence approximately 30 ft. from the sidewalk adjacent to Buchanan St. and 20 ft. from the sidewalk adjacent to 8th Ave.

Mr. Shaw then referenced the "Building Equipment and Service Area Standards" within the DAUDS as giving guidelines for facilities related to buildings and/or development. Guidelines cited included that visible equipment should be screened to the greatest extent possible. Mr. Shaw stated that given the nature of the existing use being expanded and the type of use, that it was somewhat difficult to apply a specific section of the design standards to this project but felt it was clear that some type of screening was warranted. What was being proposed by the applicant was a metal panel fence with brick columns combined with landscaping adjacent to the fence and street trees along the perimeter of the property.

Mr. Shaw stated that combining landscaping with the fence, as well as street trees around the perimeter of the property could help mitigate any negative impacts of a metal panel fence. Mr. Shaw stated that then detailed the types of plantings (trees, shrubs, etc.) around the fence and stated that if maintained properly, could effectively screen the proposed metal panel fence and meet intent of the DAUDS.

Mr. Valdez, Level 3 representative, then handed out drawings of the proposed improvements and gave a brief explanation of location and materials of the fence and landscaping. Ms. Walton asked about the exact color of the fence and brick columns. Mr. Valdez said they would be similar but the masonry columns would help break up the panel fence and that the street tree canopies would help screen the dishes. He stated the a wrought iron fence around the entire dish area would be extremely cost prohibitive. Mr. Nelson asked about the cost of a wrought iron fence. Mr. Valdez stated that for the fence material originally requested by staff was \$140,000 for materials only and would take a very long time to deliver.

Mr. Kerr then presented to the Board his reasoning for using a metal panel fence which included the newer panel fences had better designs and longer lasting paint and the cost factor was nowhere near the cost of the original fence proposed and was readily available.

Ms. Henderson requested clarity on what type of fencing was required by the DAUDS. Mr. Shaw stated that the DAUDS was clear that chainlink, security type fencing is not allowed. However, it really didn't address this particular situation and was why this was being presented before the Board for discussion. Mr. Smith asked if the main issue was screening or security. Mr. Shaw stated he thought it was both. The dishes need security but the security fencing proposed warranted the landscaping for helping screen the security fence as much as possible.

Ms. Dailey, with DAI, stated commended the landscaping effort and felt that screening was needed given the development plans adjacent to this site. Ms. Dailey recommended that the color of the fence be a dark color to blend in with the proposed landscaping and felt that in the end the landscaping, if maintained, would help greatly.

Questions were asked about the area between the sidewalk and the fence. Mr. Kerr stated that there were plans to have a combination of gravel and/or hydromulch ground cover. Ms. Walton wanted to know if TIRZ funding might be available for help with pedestrian light placement? Mr. Shaw stated that it was an option but that at this time, TIRZ assistance was very limited. Ms. Walton then asked to be sure that the fence and brick columns proposed were going to be dark and/or an earth tone color. Mr. Kerr said that it would be.

Chairman Smith asked if there were any other questions? Hearing none, Chairman Smith asked for a motion. Mr. Rathbun motioned to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness. Mr. Reeves seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: Public Forum

Mr. Smith asked if there was any public comment and hearing none, adjourned the meeting.

Kelley Shaw
Planning Director